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**Town Hall is Open  
Again at 55 Main Street**

**Town Hall Grand  
Opening Celebration:**

**Sunday, March 6, 2011  
from 1:00pm to 3:00pm**

**Town Meeting is  
Saturday, March 26,  
2011 at 10:00am in the  
Abbot School  
Gymnasium.**

**Employee Spotlight:**

**Highway Department  
for clearing our roads.**

**Police and Fire for all  
their help during the  
repeated storms.**

**IT Department for  
converting Board of  
Selectmen from paper  
to electronic packets  
saving valuable  
dollars.**

**Tina Landry and Emily  
Teller for compiling the  
annual town report.**

Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Visit  
www.westfordma.gov  
for current news and  
information.

**Dear Westford Residents,**

**February 2011**

By virtually all accounts, the frequency of snowstorms this winter, coupled with the accumulation of snow, has been significantly greater than many of us have ever experienced. The highway department has been working around the clock to keep our roads safe and passable, and they have done a fabulous job. The police and fire departments have also been extremely busy assisting the public with both storm and non-storm related emergencies. Maintenance and other town and school employees have also worked diligently on keeping our buildings open and walks and parking lots safe. Thank you to all for a job well done.

Our Annual Town Meeting is swiftly approaching and will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Abbot School gymnasium. The warrant contains 39 articles - a few of which I will outline below.

Due to the continued reduction in state aid and the loss of stimulus funds, along with increased demands on town services, the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee are recommending the town accept Local Option Meals Excise and Local Option Room Occupancy Excise, which is estimated to bring \$350,000 of new revenue to the town. If accepted, this would add 15 cents to a \$20 Westford restaurant tab, and \$2 to a \$100 Westford hotel bill.

The town is seeking approval for Capital Appropriations totaling \$1,839,550. Some of these requests include the installation of an elevator in the Abbot School, a new street sweeper for the highway department, a new base radio for the police dispatchers, a special backhoe for the cemetery department, an all-purpose tractor for the school department, and several culvert, retaining wall, crosswalk, and intersection projects.

The town is seeking permission to accept an easement for possible construction of a common well for perchlorate remediation at 93, 95, and 97 Groton Road, which will allow us to not construct a new water main.

The selectmen are seeking funding authorization for reconstruction of Minot's Corner to cover the Non-Participating Costs. If approved, the selectmen plan to attach betterments to the businesses that contribute to traffic in the area. Nashoba Valley Technical High School is asking the town for permission to establish a Stabilization Fund.

The town will hear the Community Preservation Committee recommendations at the Board of Selectmen's February 22, 2011 meeting.

The Bylaw Review Committee is seeking to amend Chapter 1 Penalties for Violating Bylaws and Regulations, to streamline the enforcement of the town's bylaws. We are proposing to change our requirements under our Chapter 51.1 C2 Bylaw to reduce printing and distribution costs of the Finance Committee recommendation booklet, the warrant, and the postcard mailing for town meetings. We propose to have all documents available online with some hard copies available at the Town Hall, Library and Cameron Senior Center, instead of printing and mailing to over 8000 homes. (*Continued on page 2.*)



**Dear Westford Residents,**

**Pages 1-2**

There is amended language proposed to Chapter 169 – the Water Bylaw - in response to a resolution for clarification at last year's annual town meeting.

The town is asking town meeting to accept the provisions of Mass General Laws Chapter 32B Section 18, which will require the mandatory transfer of eligible retirees to our Medicare Health Supplemental Plan, in order to reduce health insurance costs.

The Planning Board is proposing changes to our sign bylaws, an Overlay District in the Minot's Corner area, and changes to our Wireless Communications Facilities bylaw.

The Water Commissioners are seeking to transfer custody of certain town properties from the Board of Selectmen to the Water Department.

The selectmen are seeking easements at Flagg Road, Forge Village Road and Main Street to enable us to perform repairs to culverts, retaining walls, and the Forge Village Road intersection. The Board of Selectmen is also seeking the authority to accept easements for utilities without town meeting action.

The School Committee is asking to name the Multi-Purpose Field at Westford Academy "Westford Academy Trustees Field" to acknowledge the trustees support through the years.

On March 3rd several town staff, myself included, will be joining Representative Arciero at the State House to participate in the White Ribbon campaign. The purpose of the White Ribbon campaign is to provide boys and men the opportunity to pledge to be part of the solution in ending violence against women. As you are aware, Westford staff, officials and residents are working diligently on attempting to reduce domestic violence in our town. Please see our website for valuable resources and assistance for those in need.

Our Grand Opening of our newly renovated Town Hall will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. All offices will be open for viewing, and refreshments will be served. Please join us while we publically recognize those who coordinated, supported, and oversaw this important project.

I hope to see you all at town meeting.

Sincerely,



*Leadership Management Second Session Graduation January 19, 2011  
(Left to Right: Dan O'donnell, Paul Plouffe, Joanne Sheehan, Darren MacCaughey, Sandra Habe, Paul Starratt, Jodi Ross, Joe Ingalls, Alice Ferro, Chris McClure, Marc Wey – Instructor, Bill Turner)*



## WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Conservation

It's hard to imagine the possibility of water use restrictions this summer while surrounded by towering piles of frozen moisture. The snowfall definitely helps, but does not necessarily guarantee a plentiful summertime water supply nor does it eliminate the need to practice good water conservation year round. A quick spring thaw combined with substantial rain could result in a lot of runoff and prevent much of the moisture from recharging the aquifer. Summer drought conditions may still create the need for mandatory restrictions.

Here are some simple tips you can use to reduce household water consumption:

- Fix leaking faucets, showerheads, and toilets. Even small leaks can translate into significant water waste and higher bills. Stop by your Water Department at 60 Forge Village Road so we can provide you with toilet leak detector dye tablets.
- Shorten shower time by one minute or keep under 5 minutes. This is an easy and effective way to reduce water usage.
- Install a low flow toilet. Don't use the toilet as a trash container. Eliminating flushes can save several gallons of water.
- Limit laundry and dishwashers use to full loads.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or shaving. Not only can this can save significant amounts of water, but otherwise it's literally money down the drain!
- By practicing good conservation measures you can help protect our precious water supply. In many cases it's easy and can save you money to spend on more enjoyable things! For more water conservation tips click on the MassDEP website below:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/fsusers.htm>



*Spring is on its way. Peach Blossoms Photo by Bill Turner.*



#### **Staffing Changes in Planning / Zoning / Permitting**

A period of staffing transition continues since the former Planning Board and Board of Appeals Planner vacated the position and moved out of state before Thanksgiving. For approximately five weeks, Director of Land Use Management Angus Jennings AICP served as acting planner, providing support to both Boards on their permitting activities. In late December, the Town contracted with Chris Kluchman AICP to provide interim planning services to the community. Chris is a sole proprietor planning consultant with over twenty-three years of experience, and is based in Lexington. Since she began working here, she has provided excellent support to ongoing permitting and planning/policy initiatives, and assisted with the departments' recent transition from the Highway Building to our new permanent offices in Town Hall.

#### **Zoning Amendments Proposed for Annual Town Meeting**

Public hearings will open in February regarding several proposed zoning amendments for potential consideration at the March 26 Annual Town Meeting. On **Tuesday, February 22, 2011** at 8:15 PM the Planning Board will open a public hearing on the following proposed zoning amendments:

##### **Article 30 Replace Section 5.3 Signs: Reorganization**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Westford Zoning Bylaw to delete in its entirety Section 5.3 and adopt a reorganized Section 5.3. This proposed bylaw was prepared with substantial support from members of the League of Women Voters.

##### **Article 31 Amend Section 5.3 Signs: Purpose, Permit Granting Authority, LED Signs, and Temporary Signs**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Westford Zoning Bylaw to amend portions of Section 5.3 to add a purpose statement, change permit granting authority for projects in Planning Board site plan review, restrict LED Signs, and clarify allowable duration of temporary signs.

##### **Article 32 Combined Amendments to Section 5.3 Signs including Reorganization, Purpose, Permit Granting Authority, LED Signs, and Temporary Signs**

Combination of Articles 30 and 31. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Westford Zoning Bylaw to delete in its entirety Section 5.3 and adopt a reorganized Section 5.3., and add a purpose statement, change permit granting authority for projects in Planning Board site plan review, clarify LED Signs, and clarify allowable duration of temporary signs.



**Article 33 Amend Zoning Bylaw Sections 2.1.1, 3.6 and 4.1 and amend Zoning Map to create Route 110 Minot's Corner Overlay District**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Westford Zoning Bylaw to adopt a new Route 110 Minot's Corner Overlay District to address nonconformities that result from eminent domain takings resulting from MassDOT roadway improvements, and adopt a related amendment to the Westford Zoning Map.

**Article 34 Amend Section 9.4 Site Plan Review for religious, educational and child care uses.**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Westford Zoning Bylaw Section 9.4 Site Plan Review to authorize and clarify the scope of review and review process for religious, educational and child care facilities eligible under Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 40A Section 3 (the "Dover amendment").

On **Thursday, February 24, 2011** at 7:15 PM the Planning Board will open a public hearing on the following proposed zoning amendments:

**Article 35 Replace Section 6.2, Siting of Wireless Communication Facilities, Revisions to Section 10.2 Definitions related to Radio Telecommunications**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Westford Zoning Bylaw to delete in its entirety Section 6.2, Siting of Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF) (also known as "cell towers") and adopt a new Section 6.2 Siting of Radio Telecommunications Facilities (RTFs) and adopt related amendments to Section 4.2 Height Regulations, Section 10.2 General Definitions, Appendix A: Table of Principal Use Regulations, and Appendix B: Table of Accessory Use Regulations.

Both hearings will take place at the Millennium Building, All Purpose Room, 23 Depot Street. Complete text of the proposed amendments can be viewed at the Planning office, the Town Clerk's office (both at Town Hall), and at the J.V. Fletcher Library. A town webpage dedicated to the wireless telecommunications issue has also been created, including reference documents and links to both related WCAT videos. It is online at [www.westfordma.gov/wca](http://www.westfordma.gov/wca).